

**First Parish in Cambridge    December 16, 2018**  
**No Rehearsal Pageant**

**Welcome to First Parish!**

First Parish in Cambridge is a multi-faith, spirit-filled congregation devoted to love and justice. We are moving joyfully into a multiracial, multicultural, justice-making future. We embrace all ages, races, classes, abilities, sexual orientations, gender presentations, and ethnic and religious backgrounds. Honoring all the faith traditions of the world, we support each person's path to wisdom and spiritual growth. Whoever you are, wherever you are on the journey of life, we welcome you into our hearts.

**If you're here for the first time**, we invite you to fill out a visitor card located in the pew and leave it in the collection plate. We'll sign you up for our weekly e-mail announcements and monthly newsletter. **All are welcome to join us in Helverson Parlor** following the service for refreshments.

**For those attending with children**, you are welcome to worship as a family or children ages 4 and under are welcome in our Nursery. An usher can direct you to RE staff. Registration is required.

**Participating in the Service**

Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer, Lead Minister

Rev. Danielle Di Bona, Developmental Minister

William Williamson, Ministerial Intern

Carol Lewis, Director of Administration

Mandy Neff, Director of Religious Education

Jonathan Barnhart, Music Director

The First Parish Choir

**Religious Education for Children and Youth**

It's time for a First Parish tradition, the No-Rehearsal Pageant. You can volunteer on the spot for a role, get costumed behind the scenes, and join the living Christmas tableau. All ages of volunteers welcome, and no speaking is necessary. We look forward to celebrating with you!

**Reminder:** RE programs resume January 6.

## Shared Offering for December

This month's shared offering was chosen by our Religious Education ministry. Our recipient for December is **Thrive: the UUA Leadership Schools for Youth and Young Adults of Color**. We choose Thrive in support of our General Assembly Youth Caucus staff and their full inclusion in our faith.

As the struggle for racial justice lives on in our streets and classrooms, in courtrooms and corner stores, Thrive Leadership Schools help youth and young adults of color get connected to hope and to the skills to lead! There they form lifelong connections, carve out belonging, create practices of resilience and healing and build skills to lead.

Unitarian Universalist Youth and Young Adults of Color (People of African Descent, Caribbean, Native/American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latina/o and Hispanic, Middle Eastern/Arab, and Multiracial) meet yearly for a five-day gathering to deepen our faith, lift our spirits, and build critical skills for leadership in the face of our uncertain, broken and beautiful world. Thrive participants are guided by experienced co-facilitators as we worship, feast, play, explore our racial and ethnic identities, practice transformative leadership skills, and create authentic, supportive community.

*"I am grateful for you and the UUA for giving him the space to openly discuss and gain insight with other UUs of color. I think this experience has changed his perspective on whether he fits in this faith. He is now 'one of many' instead of being 'the one.'"*  
—*Laura, parent of alum*

For more, please visit

<https://www.uua.org/youth/events/multicultural-leadership-school>

## Save the Date! – Sunday, January 20, 2019 12:15 – 1:45

A Discussion of "White Supremacy Culture" - an eight page article by Tema Okun found [here](#).

Sponsored by the Racial Equity Team.

Organized by Charlene Galarneau. Questions?

Contact [charlene.galarneau@gmail.com](mailto:charlene.galarneau@gmail.com)

More info to come in January.

## Today's Events

### The Cookie Swap

On Sunday, December 16, enjoy a First Parish tradition. Bring two dozen or more of your favorite cookies (home-made or store-bought) to the kitchen before the service. One dozen will be shared with all in the social hour. The others will be available for swapping with other cookie-bringers after service.

Whether you love to bake cookies or just to eat them, this will be a fun event for all. So grab your mixer and let the fun begin!

If you have any questions please contact Micah & Aedan  
[micah.altman@gmail.com](mailto:micah.altman@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Holiday Events

Join us caroling on **Tuesday evening, December 18**, when we will sing for our guests at **Tuesday Meals**. We will gather in the Meetinghouse around 5:45 pm to warm up, then sing in the Parlor starting at 6:00 pm.

This is a spirited fun occasion. Everyone - including families with young children - is welcome. Hope to see you there!

### **Holiday Festival – Sunday, December 23     11:00 am-1:00pm** **NO REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICE ON 12/23**

We invite you to join us on Sunday, December 23 for food, fun and a variety of activities we hope will enrich your spirit and your holiday experience! Activities will include contemplative space in the Meetinghouse for prayer, coloring and learning more about Blue Christmas; refreshment and holiday music in the parlor; gingerbread houses and crafts in the Barn Room; storytelling in the Nursery and a solstice ritual in the Chapel. Please plan to join us!

### **Monday, December 24 at 5:30 – Christmas Eve Service**

Join us for our traditional candlelight service of readings and carols. Rev. Adam will deliver the homily.

## First Parish Auction – Update



*The 2018 First Parish Auction* was a great success! Thanks to everyone that donated and bid on items, *we raised over \$16,000* to support the church operating budget. Reserve a spot in one of the remaining dinners and events; or reserve one of the remaining services (see the list at

<http://www.firstparishcambridge.org/connection/community-auction/>) First come, first serve on the remaining items. Help us increase the total raised!

The Auction raises critical funds for the operating budget and furthers our mission of *creating community at First Parish* through themed dinners and flat-rate events. Thanks to everyone who donated and bid on items.

## From the Building Ministry Team

The church's Building Ministry Team is eager to hear from you as we begin to plan and design improvements to our front Mass Ave entrance (facade, doors, landscaping, window, and steeple).

Specifically, what do you mean by the following ideas that have been expressed as desirable? What ideas and feelings do you want the changes to provide?

- *Appear Welcoming;*
- *Demonstrate attractiveness;*
- *Be accessible;*
- *Provide security;*
- *Reflect sustainability;*
- *Retain historic legacy;*
- *Add value to Harvard Square; and*
- *Be creative.*

Please email your responses to Elizabeth Kline ([elizkline@gmail.com](mailto:elizkline@gmail.com)), Building Ministry Team

## Get involved!

### Accompaniment Volunteering

First Parish is a member of the CISC, a coalition of 10 Cambridge-area congregations that is currently hosting a woman and her two children in sanctuary so she can avoid deportation and separation from her family. "Accompaniment" volunteers are needed seven days a week on-site at a church in Harvard Square. Sometimes volunteer shifts are quiet, and sometimes there is a lot of interaction with the children. We can pair you with an experienced volunteer so you won't be on your own. Volunteering helps in her long process of fighting to stay in the U.S.

### Child Care Volunteering

The CISC childcare team is looking for several new volunteers who can commit to regular monthly outings to ensure that the children (ages 2 and almost 4) are able to spend time outside each day. A simple hour or two of outdoor play means so much in the life of this family we've committed as a coalition to support. Because coverage and consistency are ongoing concerns, we are looking for people who can commit to at least 2 weekday morning or afternoon outings a month.

*Please email Rebecca Balder, First Parish's volunteer coordinator, at [BBSF@firstparishcambridge.org](mailto:BBSF@firstparishcambridge.org) to learn more about either of these opportunities.*

## Volunteer at Y2Y during Winter Break

Many of the students who volunteer on a regular basis at Y2Y will be leaving the area for winter break which runs from December 20 through January 20. This offers a great opportunity for members and friends of First Parish to learn more about Y2Y and get involved by volunteering for one or more shifts during the break. Volunteers are especially needed for overnight shifts (don't worry there are options so you can get some sleep). Let's work together with our partners at Y2Y and help fill some of the open shifts. To volunteer follow the links on their website at [y2yharvardsquare.org](http://y2yharvardsquare.org)

## Safety Reminder

Please remember that First Parish is a public building used by many different people and groups. To ensure protection of your belongings, please don't leave belongings unattended.

## Pastoral Care

Sometimes life can become stressful and hard. You may be facing a job loss, the end of a relationship, a serious illness, a family transition or a difficult conversation that you're worried about.

Pastoral Care is available for you. If you would like a pastoral care phone call or visit please let us know. Our ministers are available to support you. Please contact them directly by phone at 617-528-9838 or email at [pastoralcare@firstparishcambridge.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstparishcambridge.org)

## Groups

**Our Elders Group** is open and meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 2:30 pm in the Chapel. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Danielle at [ddibona@firstparishcambridge.org](mailto:ddibona@firstparishcambridge.org).

### Spanish Conversation Group

¿Habras español? First Parish's **Spanish Conversation Group** meets on first and third Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Baldwin Room. Come join us for informal conversation in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. All levels are welcome and no commitment is required! For more information, email [spanish@firstparishcambridge.org](mailto:spanish@firstparishcambridge.org). ¡Nos vemos pronto!

## Do Somethings Go To the MFA – January 6 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Every month, we get together and just do something. In January, we'll be visiting Boston's Museum of Fine Arts to check out some of their newest exhibits. Whether you want to see classic Winnie the Pooh drawings or Ansel Adams landscapes, there will be something for everyone and all ages. If you're interested in joining us please email Ian Evans ([ievans272@gmail.com](mailto:ievans272@gmail.com)).

## Our Generosity — Empowering First Parish

Your financial support is important to empowering the mission of First Parish. Here are ways you can give:

- Donate, one-time or recurring, in our secure system: [firstparishcambridge.org/connection/donate](http://firstparishcambridge.org/connection/donate)
- Drop checks, or cash in an envelope with your name on it, in the Sunday service offering basket or mail to the office.
- Set up First Parish in your bank's online payment system.

## Events This Week

*Please note that Yoga, Music and Art Classes are not First Parish programs. They are run by outside instructors and a fee is associated with the classes.*

### **Sunday      December 16**

- 10:30 am      Sunday Worship
- 12:00 pm      Cookie Swap in the Parlor
- 12:30 pm      Beloved Conversations Panel in the Barn Room
- 12:30 pm      Mandarin Class in the Fuller Room
- 12:30 pm      Parenting Group in the Chapel
- 12:30 pm      Youth Group in the Nursery

### **Monday      December 17**

- 8:30 pm      Cambridge Homeless Court in the Parlor
- 5:30 pm      Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Room
- 6:30 pm      AA in the Parlor
- 6:30 pm      Art Class in the Chapel
- 6:30 pm      Women's Writing in the Fuller Room
- 7:00 pm      CISC in the Baldwin Room

### **Tuesday      December 18**

- 9:00 am      Yoga in the Barn Room
- 5:30 pm      Tuesday Meals in the Parlor
- 5:30 pm      Development Team in the Landing Room
- 6:00 pm      Harvard Extension Drama in the Barn Room
- 6:00 pm      Spanish Conversation in the Baldwin Room
- 7:00 pm      Governing Board in the Chapel

### **Wednesday      December 19**

- 9:00 am      Yoga in the Barn Room
- 6:30 pm      Two Brattle in the Baldwin Room
- 6:30 pm      Covenant Group in the Chapel
- 8:00 pm      AA in the Parlor

### **Thursday      December 20**

- 9:00 am      Yoga in the Barn Room
- 12:00 pm      Yoga in the Barn Room
- 6:00 pm      Yoga in the Barn Room
- 7:00 pm      Covenant Group in the Chapel

### **Saturday      December 22**

- 8:30 am      GSA in the Chapel
- 10:00 am      Yoga in the Barn Room